GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2715
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
CANCELLATION OF CELLULAR SERVICE PROVISION LICENCES
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has taken a decision to cancel cellular service provision licences for certain cellular circles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor? *****

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2715 FOR 13TH MARCH, 2000 REGARDING CANCELLATION OF CELLULAR SERVICE PROVISION LICENCES

(a) to (c) :

Most of the cellular licensees had not been paying the license fee dues and had requested for several relief measures like moratorium on license fee payments, extension of period of license etc. on several grounds, inter-alia, non viability of their projects, poor cash flows and alleged delays in governmental clearances. The Government as a pro-tem measure, asked the licensees on 25.1.99 to pay at least 20% of the accumulated license fees dues by 28.2.99 , in order to establish their bonafides. In spite of this, some licensees failed to pay 20% of their outstanding dues and six licenses as below were terminated:

(i) Bihar, Orissa and U.P (West) circle licences of M/s Koshika Telecom; all the three licences were terminated on 22.5.1999.

(ii) Haryana and Rajasthan Circle licences of M/s Aircel Digilink; both the licences were terminated on 22.5.1999.

(iii) Punjab Circle licence of M/s J.T. Mobiles; the licence was terminated on 15.7.1999.